

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SSM-05 AID-05 /077 W

-----071163 061654Z /43

R 061411Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6951

UNCLAS CAIRO 11223

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN ECON EG

SUBJECT: LACK OF QUORUM HOLDS UP DEBATE ON DRAFT BILLS IN  
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

REF: CAIRO 10818

1. CHRONIC LACK OF ATTENDANCE DURING CURRENT SEASON OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY HAS HELD UP DEBATE ON NUMBER OF KEY DRAFT BILLS. MOST RECENTLY, PA SESSION SCHEDULED TO BE HELD JULY 2 WAS CANCELLED BY SPEAKER SAYED MAREI WHEN ONLY 123 OF 181 MEMBERS NECESSARY FOR QUORUM ATTENDED SESSION. AT FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF PA CENTRAL COMMITTEE JULY 3, MAREI AFFIRMED, OVER VIGOROUS OBJECTIONS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, HIS DECISION NOT TO HOLD PA SITTINGS WITHOUT PRESENCE OF LEGAL QUORUM. AS A RESULT, DEBATES ON PROVISIONS NEW DRAFT BILLS ON HOUSING, FAISAL ISLAMIC BANK, AND QUESTION RAISED BY PA MEMBER OVER INCREASED MEDICINE PRICES HAVE BEEN POSTPONED TO JULY 16. PRESS ALSO REPORTS JULY 4 THAT DEBATE ON NEW TAXATION BILL WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15, FOLLOWING PA RECESS FOR RAMADAN.

2. AHMAD ABU ISMAIL, CHAIRMAN PA BUDGET COMMITTEE, TOLD EMBOFF JULY 5 THAT PA NOW PLANS RAMADAN RECESS ROUGHLY AUGUST 5-SEPT. 15. CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, HE STILL EXPECTS BOTH HOUSING AND TAX LEGISLATION TO BE PASSED BY PA PRIOR TO RECESS. HIS  
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COMMITTEE HAS NOW COMPLETED ITS MAKR UP OF TAX LEGISLATION AND FORWARDED BILL TO FULL ASSEMBLY. ABU ISMAIL ADMITS, HOWEVER, THAT HOUSING BILL WILL HAVE TO BE DEBATED FIRST AND THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING TAX BILL UNTIL AFTER RECESS.

3. COMMENT. IF SAYED MAREI IS TO BE BELIEVED, SPEEDY CONSIDERATION

OF IMPORTANT HOUSING AND TAXATION BILLS STILL DEPENDS ON PA  
ATTENDANCE. THERE ARE THOSE SKEPTICS WHO ARE BEGINNING TO SAY  
THAT "QUORUM EXCUSE" IS ONE WAY OF GETTING AROUND UNPLEASANT  
JOB OF TACKLING DIRECTLY PROBLEMS OF HOUSING AND TAXATION WHERE  
SO MANY SPECIAL INTERESTS ARE AT ISSUE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 06-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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